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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1905.

Charging the Cannon.

Representative Crumpacker of Indiana compels admiration. Single-handed he has stepped into the breach and fired a charge of hot shot into the Cannon's mouth. To use plain words, he has introduced a resolution designed to shear the Speaker's wings and clip the Speaker's claws.

It is known of men who gather their views of present day institutions from the histories that the House of Representatives is a deliberative body. So it has been frequently described and there are persons, it is said, who actually remember when this was a fact. Admittedly, however, that was a long time ago. Whatever of deliberation now occurs in the House of Representatives, in so far as that deliberation has a result in legislation, occurs when the Committee on Rules holds its sessions.

And the Committee on Rules, to all practical intents and purposes, is the Hon. Joseph G. Cannon of Illinois.

Of course, the other members of the House are not restrained actually from deliberating. On the delightful contrary, they, as the Speaker would probably put it himself, may deliberate all they darn please. But that's all. It is not vital.

Mr. Crumpacker would change all that. His resolution would amend Rule 10 of the standing rules of the House so that the Speaker would become a god deposited. If he would not be wholly stripped of his power, he would be robbed of its sweetest attributes. Its splendor and beauty would have vanished quite.

According to the resolution, the Committee on Rules is to consist of eleven members, seven of whom shall be elected by the majority caucus and four of whom shall be elected by the minority caucus. The committee is to choose its own chairman and effect its own organization and it is distinctly provided the Speaker shall not even be a member. This committee is to appoint all the other standing committees of the House and fill all vacancies on these committees that may occur. A vacancy in the Committee on Rules is to be filled by the caucus which elected the member whose place has become vacant.

It may be remarked, in passing, that the resolution of Mr. Crumpacker is rather less likely to become effective than that tomorrow at 10 o'clock and 17 minutes forenoon, the crack of doom will sound. Both events are in the domain of possibility, but—

This lack of probability does not detract from the admiration in which Mr. Crumpacker will be held. Indeed, it rather adds to the public appreciation of his valor, for it requires a sterner courage to lead a forlorn hope than one in which victory is more evenly in the balance. There is no question the power wielded by the Speaker is extravagant and inordinate, and never contemplated by the founders of the Republic. It is a moving shame—although it does not seem to move the House of Representatives—that a body of men, supposedly deliberative, is willing to acquiesce in such slavery.

But they are. They are not going to pass Mr. Crumpacker's resolution, or anything approximating it. They seem quite willing to sit and rattle their chains.

Enemies of the State.

This is not the time for conjecture or discussion of the guilt or innocence of Abraham H. Hummel, the New York lawyer, now on trial in that city for conspiracy and subornation of perjury. His fate, the determination of the facts and the application of the law, are in the hands of the court and jury. Until they have spoken it is not only wise but just for the rest of us to hold our peace.

One thing, however, may be said, in all justice and propriety. If Hummel is guilty of the offense with which he is charged and which has been described in the opening statement of the prosecution, he merits condign punishment, swift and certain. According to these allegations, he entered into a criminal conspiracy to destroy a family and blast a home. According to the allegations he used every corrupt means to carry the conspiracy to its baneful conclusion.

That there are members of the bar, of a standing more or less worthy, who are willing to prostitute their talents and their duty as court officers to such vile ends, is known of

Five Weeks of Inaction.

The Washington Board of Trade was the subject of plain talk in these columns on the day of that body's last annual meeting—Monday, November 13. Readers of The Times were asked to note that evening the practical steps taken in the preceding year toward any one of fifteen specific projects for the improvement of the District. With all earnestness it was urged that whether the number of those steps was large or small, the board had a new year before it, and, if it was to fulfill its responsibilities to the community whose name it bears, it should make that meeting the beginning of a period of results.

The report of the retiring president, to which it was hoped the editorial might direct attention, was heard by perhaps one member in six and by the rest read casually in the newspapers next day. It touched upon only one of the fifteen needs emphasized by The Times—the construction of an auditorium and a music hall; and it ignored such matters as our lack of school accommodations for 1,500 children, more pay for our teachers, a commercial club, the adjustment of local freight conditions, the Capital's disgraceful leadership as the non-health resort city with the highest death rate from consumption, and the purchase of ground for parks in the new city. As a record of practical steps, those who missed hearing this report read did not miss much.

Five weeks have passed since that meeting. In that time not a committee has assembled or a single workday effort been made toward a single result. Nobody connected with the board knows when its next meeting is to be held—not even its president. Excepting that the secretary's office has been open, there has been no tangible evidence that the board has been alive.

One thing, and one thing only, has been done. The board of directors has met, fixed upon last year's first vice president to be this year's president, announced that the board would devote itself this year to persuading Congress in favor of a loan to cover the cost of the District's extraordinary improvements, and adjourned. Even that taking of breath was not complete—for it is not known yet if the president-elect is willing to serve.

The five weeks which have thus been lost are the most valuable weeks of the year. If Congress is to be impressed with any District need—whether of a loan to cover extraordinary improvements or anything else—it is best done before the committees and subcommittees on the District have adopted plans of action. After the Christmas holidays plans of action will have been adopted, Congressmen will have made up their minds, and this year, perhaps, as last, not even a revolt against the House leaders backed by a majority of its members will yield to the District any practical advantage.

This is not the way to begin a period of results. In business such wanton waste of opportunity would arouse only derision and contempt. Can a board of trade, which was organized to represent all the business interests of a great city, hope reasonably for a kinder judgment? Not unless somewhere and some time it manifests the breath of life.

men. Their exploits, while seldom published, are matters of common notoriety in the circles where they shine.

The crime they commit is the destruction of that institution upon which society rests. To their thinking, the holy estate of matrimony is a rest-house, to be entered and abandoned at the merest caprice. The dissemination of that theory of life and the inducement to its practice of their clients and the public is their stock in trade. Forgery, perjury, and the like crimes are principal assets in their business.

It is a trade that should be visited with the public wrath. The Times is very far from thinking that an evil condition can be remedied or improved by the selection of a scapegoat, upon whom to load the sins of the tribe. This is no effort to decide whether Mr. Hummel is guilty of this offense or any other, or is himself the most wronged and abused man in the nation. His case is for the jury, but the condition of which it is said to be an outcropping is a matter of the gravest concern and the most vital consequence to the whole people.

The Primary's Products.

In the light of recent political developments it must require a stupendous nerve, or else a reverence for the things that were that passeth all understanding, to inspire sincere objection to the system of primary elections. So little time has elapsed since the evils of the convention system have received conspicuous illustration, the ordinary man, of intelligence and convictions, will hesitate long before he pleads its advantages.

Yet there are some who like it. They hold the opinion—or announce it, at any rate—that the convention best expresses the party will and best selects the party candidates. "This is a representative government," they proclaim, with ponderous solemnity, "and the party that cannot hold an honest convention will never hold an honest primary."

That view of the situation is extreme. Moreover, it departs from the issue. There never was a primary election, probably, that was not tainted with some degree of corruption. As long as we dwell this side the millennium it is not probable there ever will be. But at its worst the primary never lines up with the party convention, wherein pledges are forgotten, honesty is laid aside, and either the will of a boss or the Scotch principle of mutual back-scratching is the dominant and controlling force.

In Philadelphia and New York and many other American cities the beauties of the convention have been exemplified on a hundred different occasions. The person higher up has passed the word and those lower down have bowed and obeyed. It has been a sort of benevolent feudalism. The people never had any real voice in the selection of their candidates, and the theory of a representative government played about the same part in the election the ikon does in the winning of Russian victories. It merely inspired the proletariat to larger deeds of voting valor.

This one thing is reasonably certain. The primary election, whether

tainted or otherwise, if only qualified voters cast their ballots and these votes are honestly counted, comes reasonably near to expressing the will of the party majority. The action of the convention, in nine cases of ten, expresses the will of the party boss or the concessions, trading, and common advantages of the members of the party ring.

For our part, we believe in primaries, not because they are perfect or we conceive them to be so, but because they do conduce to the formation of a government actually representative. The only stalwart opponents of the system we have ever encountered are the amateurs who perch on editorial tripods and the distinguished and self-sacrificing patriots who have fed so long from the party crib they have begun to consider the privilege a sacred and inalienable right.

Try the Reeder Plan.

As a measure of business expediency, marked by a display of common sense unusual in Congressional legislation affecting the personnel of the executive departments, the bill introduced by Representative Reeder of Kansas is entitled to grave consideration. It may be the remedy for a patent and serious evil.

The bill provides for the retirement of superannuated clerks upon pensions amounting to half their salaries, and the creation of a class of substitute clerks. The latter are to perform the duties no longer discharged by the former and are to receive the remaining 50 per centum of the original salaries. Only those clerks who were soldiers in the civil war are to be retired under the provisions of this act. The candidates for appointment as substitute clerks are to be certified by the Civil Service Commission.

It is obvious that under the provisions of this measure the work of the Government will be carried on with no increase of expense, aged clerks, who have become infirm in the Government service, will receive a comfortable annuity, and young men will be given an additional opportunity to enter the departments.

How seriously the efficiency of departmental work is impaired by the retention of infirm employees no longer able to render first-class service is a matter of common knowledge here in Washington. It has been complained of in the reports of Cabinet officers and their subordinates on numerous occasions. Sentimental considerations have been sufficient, however, to retain in office men who have outlived their usefulness. No method has been found to remedy an acknowledged and increasing evil.

Mr. Reeder seems have found the way.

Pat Garrett's case shows where the President draws the line.

Implicit confidence in Mr. Lawson of Boston has been known to prove extensive.

The army should take a leaf from Speaker Cannon's book when it comes to dealing with insurgents.

Secretary Root seems of the opinion that common sense and business judgment have a real place in the Department of State.

Some of the young statesmen, who represented by Mr. Williams as the "kids of the House," now understand he meant those who could be kidded. They have been.

WARFIELD GETTING FORCES INTO LINE

Holds Conference With Members of Legislature.

RESULT IS KEPT SECRET

Reported That General Baughman Is Flirting With the Executive.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 16.—Governor Warfield is getting his people in line. During the past week he sent for a number of the members-elect of the general assembly, to whom he made overtures. A majority called at the office of the executive in this city while others saw him at Annapolis. How many of these he captured only he knows, for the visitors declined to repeat the conversation or say where they stand.

From other sources it is learned that the governor did not intimate he was ready to trade offices for votes, and some of those who called ready to make a docket were therefore greatly disappointed. One of the local members said the governor simply referred to the coming session and said he desired to renew acquaintance. He then called the member's attention to some needed legislation, which he hoped would be enacted, but not once made any reference to the organization in either house. The presumption is he was sounding his men so as to be prepared to make overtures later on.

Blair Lee's Call.

Among others who called upon the governor at his Annapolis residence and spent the evening with him was Senator Blair Lee of Montgomery. Mr. Lee is just breaking into political company, and the various factions are playing for his allegiance. It was thought that the Montgomery senator was closer to Senator Gorman than anyone else in the party, and by his close relations with the latter, that of Col. Spencer C. Jones charge Gorman with helping Lee in the primaries, and contributing materially to Jones' defeat. It is also known that the Senator helped Lee, or rather the Democratic candidate, with cash on election day. Hence the visit of Lee to the governor has created no end of speculation.

There is a report current in political circles that General Baughman, who has more influence with the new organization in Montgomery than any other one man, had advised Lee to get near the governor. In view of the fact that Baughman was always been Gorman's right hand man, and by his close relations with the latter, that of Col. Spencer C. Jones charge Gorman with helping Lee in the primaries, and contributing materially to Jones' defeat. It is also known that the Senator helped Lee, or rather the Democratic candidate, with cash on election day. Hence the visit of Lee to the governor has created no end of speculation.

Conditions Badly Mixed.

Political conditions are so mixed that the leaders are entirely at sea. They appear to be distrustful of each other, and each is looking out for himself. Either this, or there is an understanding between them to hoodwink the public. They are not sure of their ground, that much is certain. One of the best posted organization senators informed a colleague the other day that State Treasurer Vandiver, whose election is claimed by large numbers, had not yet received enough pledges from members-elect to insure his renomination in caucus. Governor Warfield is determined to defeat him if such a thing is possible, and he will go to almost any length to accomplish his purpose.

Had he brought in Senator Hubner, who is his choice for State Treasurer, at an earlier date, the latter's chances would be very much better, but the Baltimore county delegation, which he expected to get behind his candidate, had already been pledged to Vandiver by Congressmen Albright, and without the support of his own delegation Hubner can hardly expect outside aid. The governor sent for one of the county members and appealed to him to pledge himself to Hubner, but the delegate said he could not afford to break his word. He had given his word he would vote for Vandiver.

Looks Like Vandiver.

Surface indications point to Vandiver's renomination, provided ex-Governor Jackson does not break away. In an authorized interview he declared that as between Vandiver and Hubner he would prefer the former. Governor Smith has also come out for Vandiver. When he made the combination with the governor by which Warfield agreed to do all in his power to bring about the election of Senator Moore for president of the senate, he informed the governor that he was for Vandiver, and he is. Smith is one of the few politicians whose word is his bond.

Jackson is not so certain. In business circles there is no one more highly respected nor more honorable than he, but he is liable to change his mind when he is engaged in political dealing. He is for Moore for president of the senate, he says, as against any candidate except General Seth. This reservation is regarded with suspicion. Seth is the ex-governor's friend and counsel, and it is thought he might be induced to abandon the combination and go with Gorman & Co. If his man were accepted, he would have a time of it securing the nomination if Jackson was opposed to him. Should Jackson, therefore, be placed in doubt, it might be part of the game to compel Mr. Gorman to come to Seth. Until his return from Mississippi, the end of this week, no conferences will be held.

Several of the local leaders have called upon Senator Gorman, but were informed he was too ill to discuss politics, besides he thought it better to wait until after Christmas. Mr. Rash advised all of his people here not to commit themselves to any candidate, and then left for New York, returning yesterday after a week's absence. Before leaving he informed his lieutenants he intended to stand pat and wait for the other fellows to show their hands.

What the organization people fear most

NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE GEORGETOWN LAW CLASS



WILLIAM MATHEWS.

Georgetown Students Hold Class Election

William Mathews Named as President of the Post-Graduate Law Class—New Leader Is a Popular Government Clerk.

The post-graduate class of the law department of Georgetown University, at its meeting, elected the following officers:

President—William Mathews, of Indianapolis, Ind.

First vice president—Charles H. Engle, of Erie, Pa.

Second vice president—L. E. A. O'Kette, of San Francisco, Cal.

Secretary—John M. Loughran, of Washington, D. C.

Treasurer—Robert E. McNamara, of Asheville, N. C.

Sergeant-at-arms—Hugh I. Monaghan, of Philadelphia, Pa.

The election was practically unanimous, and the best of feeling prevailed. The new president of the class took the degree of LL. B. in the class of 1906. He came to Washington from the

middle West in 1897, and took employment in the Treasury Department. He is now in the \$1,400 grade in the Internal Revenue Bureau, and is a trusted and popular employee of Commissioner John W. Yerkes.

Mr. Mathews' education has been secured since he reached the age of twenty-one. Before that he was tied down to labor on a Western farm. He spent one year in Cuba under the military occupation of the United States as a detailed Treasury employee under the Auditor for Cuba.

Mr. Mathews is a brother of A. Mathews, who was private secretary to Vice President Fairbanks. Like his brother, he retains his residence in Indiana, and his interest in politics there. He will locate in Indianapolis in the practice of law later.

Chairman Hanna, Collector Stone, and other party leaders favor straight voting. The probabilities are they will reach a compromise.

Several of the local members are talking about introducing a joint resolution providing for a committee similar to that now at work in New York to investigate the local public service corporations. Their threats have stirred up several of the concerns which generally contribute liberally to political campaign funds. It is claimed that an investigation will show the conditions here to be on a par with those in New York.

ADVOCATES FREE TRADE TO GET COTTON MARKET

Representative Byrd Tells Mississippi Society Germany and England Help South More Than We.

Before the Mississippi Society last night, in its regular meeting, at Pythian Hall, Representative Adam Byrd, of that State, spoke of political measures affecting the needs of the South.

"President Roosevelt," said Mr. Byrd, "talked much when on his trip South of the opening of foreign markets for cotton. In his message, however, he devoted but a finger's length to tariff revision, an approach to free trade meaning to the South an opening of those markets."

He said England and Germany had done far more to help the producer of cotton in finding a market than has his own country. These countries had opened the markets of the world to trade, and indirectly through them the cotton of America had been sold.

Representative Humphries was also present, and addressed the assemblage.

G. P. O. EMPLOYEE DIES AFTER BRIEF ILLNESS

After a short illness Daniel Murphy, seventy years of age, died yesterday at Providence Hospital. Arrangements for the funeral have not as yet been made.

Mr. Murphy came to Washington from New York thirty-six years ago, and entered the Government Printing Office, where he has been employed. He was popular among his fellow-workmen and personal friends, being a man of great strength of character. His friends among the employees of the printing office will attend his funeral in a body.

The deceased is survived by one daughter, Miss Cecilia Murphy, and a son, Charles Murphy, both of this city.

ARRESTED ON CHARGE OF ROBBING FRIEND

Suspected of the larceny of \$41 from his roommate, Willis T. Wooster, George Van Horn, twenty-four years old, of 2 E street southeast, was taken into custody by Detectives Muller and Cornwell of the Central Office, and sent to the Sixth precinct station for the night. The detectives searched the young man and his effects at his boarding house, but did not find the money which he is suspected of taking.

BEE T SUGAR MEN ARE ACTIVE AGAIN

Will Fight Movement to Reduce Philippine Duties.

WARM FIGHT IS EXPECTED

Chief Austin Says Reduction Will Not Affect American Sugar and Tobacco Interests.

The intention on the part of the Republicans in the House to adopt the President's recommendation and pass a measure to reduce the duty on Philippine tobacco and sugar to 25 per cent of the Dingley rates is likely to open the flood gates of tariff discussion before the session is six weeks old.

The beet sugar men in the House are threatening all kinds of things, and petitions are on the way from Hawaii saying that any reduction in the duty on Philippine sugar will seriously cripple the sugar industry in Hawaii.

The "standpatters" are inclined to favor 25 per cent reduction on Philippine sugar and tobacco because in their opinion the lowering of this duty would not in the least impair the doctrine of protection.

The fact is, the duty on Philippine sugar and tobacco could be removed and the people in the United States, including the planters, would never know the difference, so far as these two articles are concerned, as competing with American produced sugar and tobacco. The price would not be affected one penny.

O. P. Austin, chief of the Bureau of Statistics, who is an authority on exports and imports, smiled at the suggestion that the American sugar planters and the tobacco planters would be driven out of business if the duty on those articles produced in the Philippines were reduced to 25 per cent of the Dingley rates.

CANTEEN TURNED DOWN FOR FEAR OF DEFEAT

Chairman Hull, of House Committee, Makes Positive Prediction of Contrary Action This Session.

"Just making a guess, I do not think this committee will take any steps this session to restore the canteen to the army," said Representative Hull, chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, yesterday. "Of course, no thing is subject to the wish of the committee, but I don't believe anything on that line will be done."

This is a significant statement, in view of the pressure that is being brought to bear on Congress this year by army circles to have the canteen restored.

Yesterday afternoon, Secretary of War Taft sent to the House a copy of a resolution passed by the Association of Military Surgeons requesting that the canteen be restored to the army. In addition to this, a large majority of officers have reported that the absence of the canteen from the army has done great damage to the health and discipline of the soldiers.

Representative Morrell has introduced a bill to restore the army canteen.

Nevertheless, it is certain that the Committee on Military Affairs will not recommend such action. It has been said that this recommendation from the committee would defeat every member of the committee for re-election, and would bring a similar fate on every member of Congress that voted for it on the floor of the House.

DENEKAS' DEATH BLOW TO AUTOMOBILE CLUB

Late Owner of Villa Flora Club Had Made Arrangements to Put Up Building for Cars.

The sudden death of Claas Denekas, the owner of the property Villa Flora, was the chief topic of conversation last night at the Saturday smoker of the Washington Automobile Club. General regret was expressed, and it was said that the club will greatly miss him and his enthusiasm.

"It is to be hoped," said Mr. Duval, president of the club, "that arrangements can be made with Mr. Denekas' stepdaughter for the erection of a bungalow adjacent to the Villa Flora Club, to be used as a summer clubhouse. I had practically arranged with Mr. Denekas on the part of the club to put up a building costing a couple of thousand, to consist of one or two stories and a big porch. We would also have a park for the machines, and we would be sufficiently near the Villa Flora Club to get the benefit of its cafe and waiter service."

"The expense of running a cafe has been the sinkhole of many a well-founded club. The location of the Villa Flora tract, the excellent roads leading to it, the almost absolute necessity of going somewhere near it almost every time one wishes to autotour in the country, make it, in my mind, the ideal spot for a summer club."

It was stated at the club that the Washington Automobile Dealers' Association will turn over one of its rooms to the autotourists during the February show, at the Washington Light Infantry Armory.

HOW TO CATCH A THIEF.

An English country clergyman detected a thief in the following astute manner. A laborer had informed him that a sack of potatoes had been stolen from his garden. "Well, well," said the minister, "I'll see to it after supper."

He preached on the Eighth commandment, and ended thus: "And now I have a sad tale to tell. One of our neighbors has missed a sack of potatoes from his garden, and the thief is now sitting among you. Has he a feather on his head?"